

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 191555Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1065

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1733

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: ECON, PFOR, EEC, DA

SUBJECT: EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE

REF: DUBLIN 1056

SUMMARY: DANES BELIEVE THAT THREE NOTABLE ASPECTS OF THE RECENT EC/ARAB MEETING WERE (A) FACT THAT THE MEETING WAS NOT "POLITICIZED"; (B) THAT THE ARABS SHOWED A GENUINE INTEREST IN THE SUBSTANTIVE PART OF THE DIALOGUE; AND (C) THAT THE ARABS SHOWED THAT THEY VALUED THE ADVANTAGES THE DIALOGUE GAVE THEM. THEY HAD NOT PUSHED THEIR POINTS--GENERALLY OF A POLITICAL NATURE--BEYOND THE LIMIT OF ACCEPTABILITY TO THE EUROPEANS. END SUMMARY.

1. THORNING-PETERSEN, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE DANISH SIDE OF THE EC/ARAB DIALOGUE WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR (AND FINDS HIMSELF UNDER-EMPLOYED) COMMENTED TO CHARGE JUNE 19 ABOUT THE CAIRO MEETING IN A VEIN SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE IRISH CHAIRMAN (DUBLIN 1056). HE HAD NOT ATTENDED THE MEETING HIMSELF BUT SENT HIS ASSISTANT AND FOUR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT. IN GENERAL, T-P THOUGHT THE MEETING HAD GONE AT LEAST AS WELL AS COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED AND THAT THE ENDEAVOR IS NOW "OFF THE GROUND." HE SAID THAT THE EUROPEAN SIDE HAD STRESSED THAT WHAT IS ENVISIONED IS A LONG-TERM COOPERATION WHICH CAN ONLY COME TO FULL FRUITION WHEN THE APPROPRIATE POLITICAL PREREQUISITES HAVE BEEN MET, I.E., WHEN THE CONFLICTS IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN OVERCOME AND PEACE ESTABLISHED. THIS, HE EXPLAINED, IS THE POLITICAL DIMENSION OF THE DIALOGUE AS FAR AS THE EUROPEANS ARE CONCERNED. FOR THEIR PART, THE ARABS, OR AT LEAST SOME OF THEM, HAVE CONTINUALLY TRIED TO STEER TOWARD A MORE POLITICAL TYPE OF MEETING BUT AT THE RECENT MEETING THEY DID NOT PUSH THEIR VIEWS BEYOND THE LIMIT OF ACCEPTABILITY TO THE EUROPEANS. THEY DID MAKE SOME VERY POLITICAL SPEECHES, AND PARTICULARLY COMPLAINED ABOUT THE EC/ISRAEL AGREEMENT. (DURING ONE OF THESE LENGTHY TIRADES A BRITISH DIPLOMAT HAD MUTTERED: "WE ARE NOW IN A PART OF THE WORLD WHERE WORDS ARE AN END UNTO THEMSELVES.") THE EUROPEANS DID NOT ANSWER ANY OF THE ARAB POLITICAL ARGUMENTS, COMMENTING THAT THE EC/ISRAEL AGREEMENT WAS NOT WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE MEETING. THE ARABS HAD

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WANTED A SEPARATE POLITICAL DECLARATION AND HAD EVEN SUGGESTED THE TEXT OF ONE. ALTHOUGH THE WORDING WAS "NOT BAD" FROM THE EUROPEAN POINT OF VIEW, IT WAS NOT SOMETHING THAT THE EUROPEANS WANTED TO SAY PUBLICLY. SO THE COMPROMISE WAS A COMMUNIQUE ALONG WITH A CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM (DUBLIN 1047) WHICH HAD SATISFIED THE ARABS.

2. WHILE THE EUROPEANS THINK THEY HAVE COME OUT FAIRLY

WELL IN HANDLING THE POLITICAL ISSUE THUS FAR, THE REAL DIFFICULTY, ACCORDING TO T-P, MAY LIE IN THE AREA OF FINANCING ANY AGREED-UPON PROJECTS. IT IS BECOMING CLEAR THAT THOSE IN THE ARAB WORLD WHO HAVE BEEN WILLING TO SUPPLY GENEROUS AMOUNTS OF CAPITAL (E.G., SAUDI ARABIA TO EGYPT) MAY WELL NOT BE PREPARED UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS TO OPEN THEIR PURSES ANY MORE THAN THEY ALREADY HAVE. THIS OF COURSE REMAINS TO BE SEEN BECAUSE NO PROJECTS HAVE YET BEEN AGREED; WHAT IS ALREADY CLEAR IS THAT THE ARABS WANT SPECIAL ADVANTAGES FOR THEIR INVESTMENTS IN EUROPE. T-P COMMENTED HERE THAT DENMARK, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF THE OTHER EC COUNTRIES, IS NOT PREPARED TO SEE THE ARABS TAKE OVER A PREPONDERANT SHARE OF ITS INDUSTRY.

3. SINCE THE ARABS HAD NOT BEEN PREPARED TO BREAK INTO WORKING GROUPS, THE MEETING HAD GENERALLY TAKEN ON THE CHARACTER OF A CONTINUING PLENARY SESSION. THE EUROPEANS CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ARABS SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH EXPERTS TO STAFF THE WORKING GROUPS, BUT WERE NOT PREPARED TO EXPOSE THIS FACT. RIAD HAD CONCEDED THAT THE ARABS HAVE NO EXPERIENCE IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG THEMSELVES. ASKED IN WHAT PROJECT FIELDS THE DANES MIGHT CONTRIBUTE, T-P SAID THAT THEY WERE THINKING OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY. DANISH EXPERIENCE WITH INTENSIVE FARMING, FOR INSTANCE, MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO THE ARABS. SOME DANISH LIVESTOCK COULD BE USEFUL TO THE ARABS; THE DANES ALSO HAVE CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN IRRIGATION. ON THE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGICAL PLANE, THEY WERE EXAMINING HOW THEIR EXPERIENCE IN APPLIED RESEARCH MIGHT CONTRIBUTE. ALL OF THESE PROJECTS ARE FAR DOWN THE TRACK, HOWEVER.

4. IN CONCLUSION, T-P SAID THAT THE MORE MODERATE COUNTRIES SUCH AS EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN (WHOSE AMBASSADOR

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TO BONN HAD VERY COMPETENTLY CHAIRED THE ARAB SIDE) SEEMED TO HAVE THE UPPER HAND OVER THE RADICALS, REPRESENTED CHIEFLY BY ALGERIA AND IRAQ. LIBYA STOOD BEHIND THE RADICALS BUT IT HAD NOT SENT A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MEETING. OF SOME INTEREST TO THE EUROPEANS WAS TO NOTE THAT THE RADICAL CAMP DID NOT INCLUDE SYRIA, KUWAIT OR THE STATES ALONG THE PERSIAN GULF, ALL OF WHOM SEEM TO BE SET ON GETTING WHAT THEY CAN FROM THE DIALOGUE.
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